

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 EB-07

COME-00 AGRE-00 /095 W

-----108104 081822Z /44

O R 081614Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6069

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LUSAKA 1951

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, RH, XJ

SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS OF KAUNDA PRESS CONFERENCE: JULY 8

SUMMARY: KAUNDA TERMED LIBREVILLE SUMMIT A "GREAT SUCCESS" AND SAID THE SUMMIT'S MOST IMPORTANT DECISION WAS RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE. KAUNDA SAID THE RHODESIAN "WAR IS GOING TO ESCALATE" AND FEARS ZAMBIA IS SLOWLY BEING DRAWN IN. KAUNDA SAID ZAMBIA, AS ALWAYS, RESERVES THE RIGHT TO INVITE FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO COME TO ITS ASSISTANCE IF NEEDED. IN PRINCIPLE ZAMBIA HAS ACCEPTED ALL OFFERS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE, BUT A SECRET SELECTION OF COUNTRIES' WHOSE OFFERS WOULD BE TAKEN UP IN TIME OF NEED HAS BEEN MADE AND THEY COULD COME FROM ANY GEOGRAPHIC AREA, CONTINENT OR POLITICAL GROUPING, INCLUDING EAST AND WEST. KAUNDA SAID HE DID NOT PLACE MUCH HOPE IN THE CURRENT ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA BECAUSE PAST INITIATIVES HAVE LEFT SMITH STRONGER AND MORE TRIGGER-HAPPY. A SPECIAL REPORT ON RECENT UNCLASSIFIED

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SHORTAGES OF SUGAR AND COOKING OIL IN THE COPPERBELT WAS DEMANDED BY KAUNDA. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT KAUNDA IN OPENING REMARKS TO A JULY 8 PRESS CONFERENCE TERMED THE LIBREVILLE SUMMIT A "GREAT SUCCESS" AT WHICH THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION REACHED WAS THE OAU RECOGNITION OF THE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF

ZIMBABWE. WHILE AFRICA AND THE FRONTLINE STATES DON'T ESPOUSE FIGHTING FOR THE SAKE OF FIGHTING AND HARBOR NO ROMANTIC VIEW OF FIGHTING, KAUNDA EXPRESSED FEAR THAT ZAMBIA WAS SLOWLY BEING DRAWN INTO THE FIGHTIN. KAUNDA SAID HE WAS CLEAR IN HIS OWN MIND THAT THE RHODESIAN WAR "IS GOING TO ESCALATE" AND THERE ARE MORE EXCHANGES OF FIRE IN THE BORDER AREAS. THE SAG IS ALSO MORE ACTIVE IN LAYING LANDMINES IN ZAMBIA ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT. AT SOME LENGTH KAUNDA EXPLAINED THAT AS ALWAYS ZAMBIA RESERVED THE RIGHT TO INVITE FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO COME TO ITS AID IF THE MILITARY SITUATION REQUIRES IT. HOWEVER, KAUNDA REFUSED TO STATE SPECIFICALLY UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES AND FROM WHAT COUNTRIES HE WOULD ACCEPT MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SAYING THAT IN PRINCIPLE ZAMBIA HAD ACCEPTED ALL OFFERS OF MILITARY AID. HE DID, HOWEVER, SAY THAT A SECRET SELECTION HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE, BUT WOULD NOT SAY WHICH COUNTRIES WERE CHOSEN, NOTING THAT THEY COULD BE FROM ANY GEOGRAPHIC AREA, CONTINENT OR POLITICAL GROUPING INCLUDING EAST AND WEST. KAUNDA SAID THE MILITARY SITUATION WAS GROWING MORE SERIOUS BY THE MINUTE AND THERE WAS NOT MUCH TIME LEFT TO REMOVE THE CAUSES OF CONFLICT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE ILLUSTRATED THIS POINT IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY SAYING THAT WITHIN THE LAST 48 HOURS IN THE LIVINGSTONE AREA THERE HAVE BEEN THREE INCIDENTS OF THE RHODESIANS FIRING ON ZAMBIANS WHO HAVE NOT RETURNED THE FIRE.

2. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS ON THE RHODESIAN SITUATION KAUNDA
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EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT INDEPENDENT RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT NEXT YEARS OAU SUMMIT BY BLACK LEADERS ALTHOUGH THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE RESTED IN THE HANDS OF GOD. KAUNDA HOPED THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD EVOLVE IN THE SAME MANNER FRELIMO HAD IN MOZAMBIQUE WHERE A FRONT ORGANIZATION WHICH PURSUED THE FIGHTING FINALLY BECAME A SINGLE RULING POLITICAL PARTY. ASKED IF HE WOULD SUPPORT NKOMO'S REJECTION OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE, KAUNDA HEDGED, SAYING THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT NKOMO HAD TOLD THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP. AT ANOTHER POINT KAUNDA SAID THAT HE DID NOT PLACE MUCH HOPE IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE BECAUSE PAST INITIATIVES HAD LEFT SMITH STRONGER AND MORE TRIGGER HAPPY. KAUNDA ACCUSED THE SELOUS SCOUTS OF ENGAGING IN DIRTY TACTICS BY TRYING TO CREATE CONFUSION BETWEEN ZANU AND ZAPU. KAUNDA REFUSED TO RESPOND WHEN ASKED IF HE THOUGHT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT MIGHT NOT PRODUCE ANOTHER ANGOLAN SITUATION. ASKED IF HE WOULD SUPPORT A SMITH-MUZOREWA-SITHOLE FRONT KAUNDA SAID THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT COULD ONLY BE A SELL-OUT AND THAT NO GOOD COULD COME FROM IT. KAUNDA REFERRED AT ONE POINT TO THE FACT THAT BOTH SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA HAD BEEN RESIDENTS OF STATE HOUSE AT ONE TIME, BUT PRESENTLY WERE PERSONA NON GRATA WITH ALL ZAMBIANS. KAUNDA POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ATTACKING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND NO ONE HAS TRIED TO MUZZLE THEM. THIS LATTER

FACT PROVES THAT ZAMBIA IS NOT MEDDLING IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS, KAUNDA SAID.

3. ON DOMESTIC MATTERS KAUNDA REPLIED, WHEN ASKED ABOUT LEADERS OPPOSING HIM, BY SAYING THAT YOU DIDN'T GIVE ME THE POWERS OF A DICTATOR, YOU WANTED DEMOCRACY SO WE WILL LET THAM TALK WITHIN LIMITS, BUT WHEN LIMITS ARE PASSED THEY WILL BE STOPPED. ASKED ABOUT REPORTS OF UNREST IN THE COPPERBELT THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THIS WAS FICTION OF THE EUROPEAN MEDIA. HE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ON ALL COMERS IN THE ELECTIONS BECAUSE THE POLICES OF UNIP ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE AND IT IS ONLY THOSE WHO ARE MONEY-MINDED AND WANT EXCESS WEALTH THAT ARE OPPOSING HIM.

4. KAUNDA SAID THIS WAS THE TIME FOR WESTERN INVESTORS TO MAKE UNCLASSIFIED

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THEIR CHOICE BETWEEN INDEPENDENT AND RACIST AFRICA.

PEACEFUL CHANGE IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE IN SOUTH AFRICA, BUT INVESTORS WHO ACT ACCORDING TO PRINCIPLE CAN HELP TO LESSEN THE PAIN OF THE CHANGE. IF THIS NOT DONE THEIR INVESTMENTS WILL BLOW UP AND THEY WILL LOSE EVERYTHING.

5. KAUNDA TOOK A HARD LINE ON MERCENARIES AND SAID THAT THE NUMBERS OF THEM THEM IN RHODESIA ARE INCREASING AND HE CN'T UNDERSTAND WHY WESTERN COUNTRIES TOLERATE RECRUITING AGENCIES IN THEIR CAPITALS AND HE PUT THE BLAME SQUARELY ON THEIR GOVERNMENTS. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR FORGIVENESS ANY MORE, KAUNDA OBSERVED.

6. IN A SEPARATE CLOSING SEGMENT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE KAUNDA CALLED ON THE PPRIME MINISTER TO PRESENT HIM WITH A REPORT BY NEXT TUESDAY AFTERNOON ASSIGNING RESPONSIBILITY AND EXPLAINING WHY THERE HAVE BEEN SHORTAGES OF SUGAR AND COOKING OIL IN THE COPPERBELT. IF HE IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE REPORT AND OFFICIALS HAVE FAILED THEN "HEADS WILL ROLL."

7. MORE DETAILED REPORT BEING SENT INFOTEL. CLINGERMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, SUMMIT MEETINGS
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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1923386
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIGHLIGHTS OF KAUNDA PRESS CONFERENCE: JULY 8 SUMARRY: KAUNDA TERMED LIBREVILLE SUMMIT A "GREAT SUCCESS" AND SAID THE SUMMIT'S MOST IMPORTANT DECISI ON WAS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, XJ, OAU, (KAUNDA, KENNETH DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fab78a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009